



Arizona Department of Agriculture

1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-4373 FAX (602) 542-5420

PRESS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE DATE: July 19, 2005

MEDIA CONTACT: Katie Decker, 602-542-0958

Number of Active Vesicular Stomatitis Cases in Horses in Arizona Decreases

(Phoenix, AZ) -- The Arizona Department of Agriculture has confirmed that Graham (1), Maricopa (1), Yavapai (5) and Navajo (2) counties currently have positive premises. This comes after the first case of vesicular stomatitis was confirmed on April 20, 2005. The following graph shows the total numbers since the initial outbreak.

	Arizona
Total Positive Premises Quarantined	27
Total Premises Released from Quarantine	18
Total Positive Equine Species	30
Total Positive Bovine Species	0

This disease causes blister-like lesions to form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves, and teats. These blisters swell and break, leaving raw tissue that is so painful that infected animals generally refuse to eat or drink and show signs of lameness. Severe weight loss usually follows, and in dairy cows, a severe drop in milk production commonly occurs. Affected dairy cattle can appear to be normal and will continue to eat about half of their feed intake.

The following shows how this disease has affected trade.

Canada: Imports of all live VS susceptible species have been suspended from all States known to be affected. The ban will remain in effect as long as there is a vesicular stomatitis quarantine in any affected State.

European Union: All U.S. horses being exported to the EU now require a negative (1:12) virus neutralization test for vesicular stomatitis. For U.S. horses exported for temporary admission for a period of less than 90 days, samples must be taken within 10 days of export. For U.S. horses exported for permanent entry for breeding and production, samples must be taken within 21 days of export. In accordance with EU regulations, this test requirement will continue until 6 months after the last affected premises is released from quarantine. EU horses in the United States and scheduled to return to the EU must be able to certify they have not been on an affected holding during their time in the United States.

Russia: These restrictions are for certain commodities (depending on the species of origin) originating from TX, NM, CO, and AZ. Examples of products that cannot be exported include: dairy products, pet food, and animal origin ingredients to be used in the production of pet food. All susceptible animals and related products from VS affected states are banned to include pedigree, usage and sport horses, and horses for slaughter, northern deer, sperm of pedigree stallions, bull semen, bovine embryos, game meat, milk and dairy products, and horse meat. Additionally, other products may not be exported because the US cannot provide endorsement of required Vesicular Stomatitis related certification statements. This ban will remain in effect until 12 months after the affected State regains free status. ###

For more information on this disease, visit www.azda.gov and click on "Hot Topics". You will also find a map, which is updated weekly, detailing the cases in the U.S.

For more information on this disease, visit www.azda.gov and click on “Hot Topics”. You will also find a map, which is updated weekly, detailing the cases in the U.S.